

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

Your source for Election News from Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant

Issue 41 – July 24, 2012

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15 Weeks Until Election Day!

On Tuesday, July 24, there will be exactly 15 weeks until the November 6 General Election!

Important Dates Coming Up

- **August 1:** Deadline for Minor Party and Independent Candidates to File Nominating Petitions, Certificate of Announcements and Pay Filing Fee (Not later than the first day of August preceding the general election)
 - o Minor party and independent candidates for president must file nominating petitions with the Secretary of State's Office. The Secretary of State will then forward the appropriate nominating petitions to the appropriate counties in order for signatures to be examined for validity. Counties will report to the Secretary of State the number of valid signatures and return petitions upon completion of the examination. (§ 3-5-23, 3-5-24)
- **August 6 - 21:** Special Filing Period, Board of Education, Vacancy Occurring after Close of Filing for Primary Election (No earlier than the first Monday in August and no later than seventy-seven days before the general election)
 - o Candidate filing period for un-expired term of Board of Education to fill vacancy occurring after the close of candidate filing but not later than eighty-four days before general election. (§ 3-5-19(c))
- **August 7 (Deadline):** Notice of Emergency Precinct Change (At least one month before entering emergency order to change precinct line)
 - o Last day county commission may complete notice to change, divide or consolidate voting precincts for general election in cases of emergency and with permission of Secretary of State (sixty days - September 7 - plus one month notice). (§ 3-1-7(g), 59-3-1)

- **August 8 (Deadline):** Deadline for Ordering Precinct Change (Not within ninety days next preceding general election)
 - o Last day for county commission to enter an order changing the boundaries of any precinct into two or more precincts, or consolidate two or more precincts into one, or to change the location of the polling place whenever the public convenience may require it. Within 15 days after such order is issued, after at least one month's notice, the county commission shall publish the order as a Class II-0 legal advertisement. Notice of the precinct change must be given one month prior to entering this order – July 8, 2012. (§ 3-1-7(b))
- **August 8:** Petition for Suspension of Election Official (At least ninety days prior to an election date.)
 - o Last day for petition to be filed with county commission seeking the suspension of an election official; petition signed by 25 registered voters of precinct where election official last served. Upon presentation of evidence of listed grounds, commission may, upon majority vote, suspend the eligibility to serve as an election official for 2 years. County commission may, on its own motion, suspend an election official for specific causes for 4 years. (§ 3-1-28(c))
- **August 8 (Deadline):** Adopt Policy Extending Medical Emergency Absentee Voting (At least ninety days prior to the election affected)
 - o Last day county commission may adopt policy extending the emergency absentee voting procedures to: (1) hospitals or other duly licensed health care facilities within an adjacent county or within thirty-five miles of the county seat; or (2) nursing homes within the county. Copy of this policy must be filed with the Secretary of State. (§ 3-3-5c(a))

New Election Official Guided Training from FVAP

New Election Official Guided Training from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is now available. This is a 30 minute training course for all interested local election officials who would like to learn more about the UOCAVA process, including challenges faced by military and overseas voters, the various applications available in addition to our state forms, processing information and tips on ways to communicate information to military and overseas voters. It is useful to the seasoned election officials as well as the new ones. For more information, follow this link to FVAP's website: <http://www.fvap.gov/leo/reference.html>.

Regional Election Meeting Agenda

There are two more regional election meetings scheduled. If you haven't had a chance to attend one of the meetings that were nearer to you and would like to attend one of these two, please contact the Elections Division as soon as possible.

- **July 25, Lewisburg**
 - o 9am – 5pm at Greenbrier County CVB, Rahall Conference Room

- 200 W. Washington Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901
- **July 26, Parkersburg**
 - 9am – 5pm at Parkersburg Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Executive Room
 - 1 Government Square, Parkersburg, WV 26101

SVRS Class Scheduled for August

The Secretary of State's Office is providing comprehensive instruction on the use, functions and best practices relating to the SVRS and how to execute them properly. The class will be six hours of instruction Monday, August 20 – Wednesday, August 23 9:00am – 4:00pm. Thursday will be ½ day which will be used to provide an overview of what you have learned and a feedback forum before you leave. To get the most out of this class you should plan to attend all 3 full days of class.

This will be quality instruction by Dave Tackett but in a “no frills” atmosphere. You will need to supply your own notepads, paper, pencils, etc. If you are able, please bring a laptop computer to class with you. Hands on exercises will be a part of the class. If you do not have a laptop please let us know. This class is for those who use the SVRS as part of their daily job function. We ask that each county send no more than 2 individuals due to space limitations.

The **deadline** to register for this class is **MONDAY, JULY 30.**

You should have received an email from Layna Brown that included the registration form. If you did not, please contact her at lbrown@wvsos.com.

Have an idea?

Is there something that you want to see addressed in the Election Connection? The goal of this newsletter is to keep everyone up to date about challenges facing election officials in West Virginia and to inform everyone about best practices that are being put into place. If you have an idea for a topic, have a question, or if you think there is a subject that election officials around the state would be interested in, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State's Office. You can contact the Elections Division by email at elections@wvsos.com or (304) 558-6000 or Jake Glance directly at jglance@wvsos.com. Your input is appreciated.